



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO MANUFACTURING METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty today to his role in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Eddie R. Staggs, 39, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to a charge contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 17, 2004, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Staggs** admitted that he conspired to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 2, 1999, and Feb. 28, 2000. Specifically, **Staggs** admitted that he would go to various gas stations and liquor stores and purchase 24-count boxes of pseudoephedrine cold pills for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Staggs is the second co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

On June 16, 2005, **Lori Sue Martin**, 31, also of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to her role in the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between Dec. 2, 1999, and Feb. 27, 2000.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Staggs** and **Martin** may be subject to mandatory minimum sentences of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Metro Meth Task Force and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow